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VOL. 2

CALGARY, MARCH 15, 1918

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No. 8

BE STRONG !

We are not here to play, to dream, to drift.
We have hard work to do, and loads to lift.
Shun not the struggle, face it, 'tis Life's gift.
Be strong, be strong !

Say not the days are evil—who's to blame ?
And fold the hands and acquiesce—O shame !
Stand up, speak out, and bravely, in God's name.
Be strong, be strong !

It matters not how deep intrenched the wrong,
How hard the battle, goes, the day, how long;
Faint not, fight on ! To-morrow comes the song.
Be strong, be strong !
(Sung at Dr. Bland's Morning Service)
Central Church).

THE OTHER SIDE.

There can be but one message of the church, and that is "Peace." It is not the business of the church to encourage war, sustain war, or bless war. Under no conditions should the church reconcile itself to this monstrous abomination. It cannot reconcile itself, even if it would. If Christianity is right, then war is wrong, no specious pleas of defense, honor, humanity, affect this fundamental and necessary antithesis. The church can recognize but a single ruler—God; give allegiance to but a single Kingdom—the Kingdom of the spirit; obey but one law—the law of love. It is the perpetual shame of the church that it did not prevent this war; it is an equal shame that it has not long since ended it.

JOHN HAYNES HOLMES,
Minister of the Church of the Messiah,
New York.
"Forum," Dec., 1917.

THINGS WE HATE TO THINK ABOUT

The "Eye Opener's" sympathy for Labor.

* * *

Major Lougheed's appointment in B.C.

* * *

The Prince of Wales's debut in the House of Lords.

* * *

Harry Lauder in the role of Demosthenes, teaching Canadians their duty in the war.

* * *

Returned soldiers, after fighting for freedom in Flanders, shouting down W. J. Bryan, in Toronto.

* * *

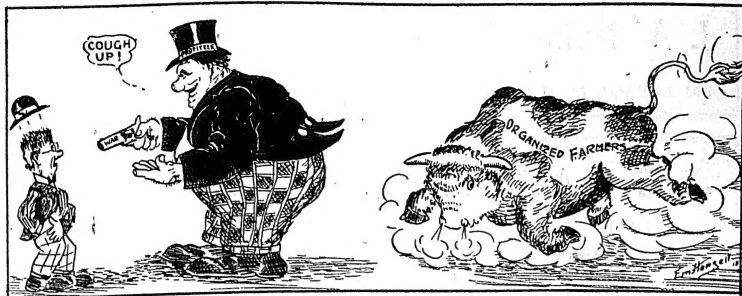
King George's much heralded ration cards.

* * *

The sycophancy of the press in all that pertains to Royalty.

CONSCRIPTION OF WEALTH

"There is no argument in a string of exclamations, like 'Robbery !' 'Confiscation !' 'Bolshevism !' and so on. The justice of the question must be tackled. Owners of wealth should contribute of that wealth to the cost of the war without payment. Our borrowed money amounts to 24 thousand million pounds, and by the end of the war—? On this vast sum, the nation is "pledged" to pay fancy rates of interest for a generation, and then to return the principal in tact to the lenders. Only a Hunnish sort of brain would try to prove the justice of this arrangement. 500 millions a year interest to be found by taxpayers, and who will spend it? Most of it will go into the pockets of a mere fraction of the people. The small holders of war loan will find their interest easily out-balanced by the taxes they have to pay for the interest on the war loans of the super-wealthy ! Our financial experts and the chancellor of the Exchequer would be wise to quickly turn their brains to the study of the problem of how to conscript wealth.—R. B. Suthers.



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CURRENT HISTORY

TORONTO THE GOOD ?

Toronto is the most narrow, bigotted and ignorant city in all the Christian world. It never has been anything else, and never will be. What is bred in the bone cannot be eradicated from the epidermis, even by an application of Old Dutch Cleanser, and Toronto's cussedness is as ingrained as a mule's perversity, and as deep dyed as the Ethiopian's skin.

Toronto is the epitome of conservatism. It never elected anything but a blown-in-the-glass Tory. It takes its political ideas from whoever happens to be at the head of the Conservative organization; its religion from Billy of the Boyne; its morals from Henry the Eighth; its drinking water from the sewerage of Lake Ontario, and its conceptions of righteousness on earth from the Gold Dust twins—Robert Rogers and Clifford Sifton.

Toronto has a street car system owned by McKenzie & Mann; a Mayor called Tommy Church, who resembles our own Mayor and knows less; a church on every corner and a narrow-minded bigot in every pew.

Of old, Toronto's favorite avocation was the stoning of the prophets; to-day it's the hugging of the profiteers. In Toronto these gentlemen foregather. It is the nexus of the pluts; the home of the C.M.A. (commonly called the Canadian Manufacturer's Assassination), and of that gold-brick, second-story aggregation of bunco steerers and porch climbers known as the famous eighteen, who in 1911 saved the Empire for a consideration paid in cash and called dividends and bonuses.

To this city of the damned, came W. J. Bryan, ex-secretary of State in the Wilson Cabinet. Toronto refused to listen to him. No one tried to compel anybody to listen to the great Nebraskan. The unco' good and ungodly righteous could always have called it Wednesday evening and gone to prayer-meeting, but like a bunch of rough-necks and hyenas they preferred a lynching to their devotions, and went out bent upon the bold task of howling Willie down. No doubt, there were thousands even in the City of Toronto who wanted to hear W. J. Bryan speak, but for the mob to consider the rights of these individuals would be to indicate a respect for the rights of small nationalities, and Toronto has a great deal less regard for this right, or any other conception of the right than Willie Hohenzollern. And so the mob ruled and the author of the Prince of Peace had to fold his wings and silently slip away.

And what is the crime of which Mr. Bryan has been guilty, which leads to this treatment in Toronto the Good? Bryan believed in peace. Kaiser Willie believed in war. Bryan is the diametrical antipodes of the other Willie who set the world on fire. If every throne in Europe had a W. J. Bryan, there would have been no war. If every person in executive authority in a King's job throughout the world were a Kaiser William, there would be no peace. Logically, therefore, Toronto which figuratively speaking, stoned W. J. Bryan, would willingly take the Emperor of Germany to its arms and greet him with a holy kiss.

What was the main incitement to the riotous conduct of Toronto's hoodlums? Mainly that rag-tag and bob-tail of Canadian journalism known as the Toronto News. Bryan was in Toronto to fight the liquor traffic. The News has been profiting considerably of late by the carrying of booze advertisements, thus seeking to

perpetuate in the Province of Ontario a business which the people have condemned with every possible power of denunciation, and the News defending this forbidden trade, turns around and urges the people to refuse to listen to W. J. Bryan, who came to the City of Toronto advocating temperance.

The News never had any idea of political decency. Liberty and justice is a conception so far removed from the Toronto News as to be to it an entirely unknown quantity. Judging from its conduct at the last election, it would have taken great joy in organizing an army for an attack upon the people of Quebec. It is like a Lynx, it wants to fight anything and everything. It is the greatest example of the "bitter ender." It wants to go on fighting until we get to Belin and when that is through it wants to turn around and fight anything it happens to meet in its way. When in an act of glorious magnanimity, the British Government granted self-government to the Boers, the News was the first to condemn it. At that time it said:

"The present British Government have given up to the Boers a great many things which the colonial contingents, with their British comrades fought to preserve, and the feeling is very general in Canada that the Canadian blood shed on the fields of South Africa was a vain sacrifice to aid an Empire which is too feebly governed to profit by such loyal devotion."

What a splendid lesson South Africa has been to the News. But the News has never understood and never will understand. Feeding on mental pabulum, such as the News peddles, Toronto has become putrid. There is no hope for it. It has committed the unpardonable sin of refusing to learn. It is suffering from congenital intellectual strabismus. Its prayers cannot avail it, for the prayers of the wicked are an abomination unto the Lord. Toronto is not only dead, but damned. It needs no Dante to write over its portals, "Abandon hope all ye who enter here."

JUST A "WEE" DIFFERENCE

"There will be no peace until there is a complete victory, so we must make up our minds to-day to fight until every son is killed, and then when the sons are killed, the fathers will have to go, because righteousness and christianity must live and we have been called upon to save it."

When you hear anybody talking about peace, cut their heads off."—Harry Lauder, in Calgary.

The spirit of the Labor Conference was excellent, and the change from the temper and tone of the Manchester Conference last year was remarkable. The acute differences between the pro-war and the pacifist sections which was so pronounced in the debates in previous years has almost disappeared, and the rent that one time threatened the party on the war has gone with it. Faith has again been restored in the possibility of the British democracy becoming a great, united, self-conscious, and dominating political power. The turn round toward the position of the I. L. P. on the war has been so extraordinary within the past few months that we can confidently wait for the influences which have wrought this conversion to complete their work. For all workers for freedom and peace inclined to despond, the conference was "a tonic."—Philip Snowden M.P. in the Labor Leader.

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COMMISSIONER SAMIS ON LAND AND THE MILL RATE.

Commissioner A. J. Samis spoke at the Forum on Sunday last. His subject was the reduction of the tax mill rate in the City of Calgary.

Calgary, like any other city at the present time, has an advancing mill rate of taxation. In a larger measure, the increasing rate is due to reduction in assessment. For instance, a few years ago, Calgary was assessed at over \$130,000,000; this year it will be assessed at approximately \$75,000,000. Necessarily under the circumstances the mill rate of taxation has increased. The Commissioner pointed out that there were two distinct ways of reducing this, aside from mere economy in departmental administration.

It is good finance in a country such as Western Canada, where interest rates are high to make a bond issue for payments of permanent improvements cover so far as possible the life of the improvement. For instance, the City of Calgary has built a splendid bridge at Centre Street, over the Bow River. A conservative estimate of the life of a concrete bridge such as this would place it at hundreds of years; in fact, if casual repairs are maintained from time to time, this bridge, barring some unforeseen event such as war or earthquake, should remain in as good condition as it is to-day for hundreds and hundreds of years. But the bonds for payment of this bridge are thirty-year bonds. Provision is made in the sinking fund for retirement of these bonds at the end of that time and so a great deal larger sum must be set aside for this purpose than if provision were made for its payment, not in thirty, but in sixty or ninety years. Applying this principle to a number of other permanent improvements having practically a perpetual life, Mr. Samis figured that a reduction of the rate could be made of approximately 1.75 mills.

His second suggestion was somewhat more difficult of accomplishment. When the Provinces of Alberta and Saskatchewan were granted Autonomy, certain lands were set aside for the maintenance of public schools. It has been the policy of the Dominion Government to sell these lands from time to time as the value approached the price of \$10 or \$12 per acre. The money realized has been set aside for this purpose and the province receives annually the interest upon this trust fund.

These lands should be under the control of the provinces. Their management by the Dominion is preposterous, and Mr. Samis argued that they should be in the hands of the province and that they should be leased and that the rental should be based upon a fair interest return upon their assessed value. That a re-valuation should take place every three or five years. That the lease should be for a term of 99 years,

and that a man would be, under the circumstances in undisturbed possession of the land, subject only to the payment of his annual lease with the full right to transfer this lease at any time or in any manner that he deemed best.

In this way, to the province would accrue the increased value of the lands as they advanced in price from year to year. The rental value of the land would be much larger than would the interest upon the fund created by their sale, for in this way the unearned increment would accrue to the province and thus go to help the burden of maintaining the schools.

There are over seven million acres of school lands in the Province of Alberta. At 50 cents an acre, it would amount to \$3,500,000, which would give to the city of Calgary approximately \$350,000 a year, or sufficient to meet almost one-half of the present expenses upon its schools. Fifty cents an acre could not be realized at the present time, because some of these lands are remote from the railways, but a great deal more than 50 cents an acre could be realized in the future, and this suggestion offers an opportunity for developing our lands in a way that cannot be secured otherwise.

There are thousands of men in the Province of Alberta who would gladly go upon the land, were it not that it requires so much capital. If a man has \$5,000 to begin farming to-day, he must, under the present circumstances, invest over \$3,000 at least in land. If, on the other hand, he could secure land of equal value by paying at the rate of 50 cents an acre upon land worth \$10 an acre, he would require to make on one-half section an initial payment of \$160, or one year's taxes. If this were done, he could then spend the remainder of his money in providing himself with complete equipment—with all the necessary machinery for the successful operation of his farm.

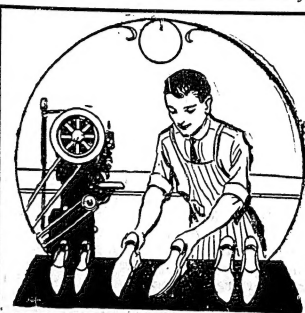
Nearly all schemes of land settlement as proposed to-day have as their basis some ridiculous idea of purchasing the land from some fat individual or plutocratic corporation and then turning it over by some round about way of state aid to the returned veteran. But here is a simple and logical method of procedure. We own the land now; we want to increase production, and the logical method to increase production would be to give the people an opportunity of producing. The only exception that can be taken to Mr. Samis' proposition is that it is too simple, too direct, too easy. It admits of no possibility of the collection of a large and generous campaign fund. It does not need the genius of the Union Government to carry it into effect. It needs only an application of common sense and that rarest of all commodities is not always the gift of the gods to the men who rule over us.

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"There is no wealth but life. That country is the richest which nourishes the greatest number of noble and happy human beings."—Ruskin.

CANADA FIRST.

The war has helped to generate a new Canadian sentiment. Our ideals of money-making which made our country a place of plunder have been tested, and shown to be base and unworthy in the face of national sacrifice. Despite our racial problems, and despite the disintegrating influence of an election fought on religious bigotry and racial prejudice, the spirit of unity is moving the hearts of the Canadian people.

This spirit of unity is waiting for direction and outlet. We are prepared now to do things for Canada. Everywhere, people are asking, what can we do for our country? This national awakening, which is in itself a dynamic force capable of great achievement is waiting to be harnessed. Our present government cannot lead a Canada movement. It has divided our people and placed such a chasm between one province and another that only a strong national sentiment can leap. We need a new Canadian organization that will stand for the uniting of the Canadian people, for complete autonomy, and Canada for Canadians.

Will the Non-Partisan League become the nucleus of this movement? Here is an opportunity for service that should not be passed. Nothing will kill the Partisan spirit, and the racial differences so effectually as the spirit of patriotism, a patriotism which does not live by hating other countries, but which is built up by the losing of the individual in

the well-being of the whole. This is the opportune time to act. Canada first, dividends, partyism and Imperialism afterward.

DEEDS SPEAK LOUDER THAN WORDS.

By his acceptance of the principles of self-determination for small nations extended even to the negroes of East and Central Africa, Mr. Lloyd George finds himself in a strange predicament. Another crisis has been precipitated in Ireland by the demands of the Sinn Fein leaders for an immediate plebiscite of the Irish people on the question of home rule, rightly insisting that a practical demonstration of this principle at home would be worth volumes of theoretical acquiescence.

It is pointed out by the Sinn Feiners that the terms of reference to the Irish Convention exclude that solution of sovereign independence which, in their opinion, a majority of Ireland desires, and Mr. deValera declares that unless Britain tackles this problem without further delay the words and promises of her Premier will carry very little weight, and her sincerity of purpose will be doubted by neutral and enemy countries.

The strong argument against any action at present in Ireland is that all the nation's thought and energy should be concentrated on the struggle with the outside enemy, but it is very questionable if the immediate attempt to settle this thorny subject would demand the transference of more attention from the war than the present disorders in Ireland necessitate.

India also is more or less in a state of ferment through the suppression of newspapers and the imprisonment of some of the leaders in the movement for self-government. Recent speeches of Lloyd George would, at least, lead us to expect that a continuous process of education and experiment, with self-government as its goal, will be undertaken at once, as a step towards the settlement of the Indian problem.

In the light of recent events, the Egyptian problem also looms up threateningly, and it is interesting to speculate on what steps will be taken to grant a constitution, long overdue, to the people of that country.

Certainly, it will be hard to reconcile a refusal by Britain of a satisfactory settlement in the cases mentioned, with the virtuous protestations of her Premier on the all-important question of genuine self-government on true Democratic principles.

THE ROUND TABLE

The Round Table is the name given to an organization that is employing itself strenuously during the war to obtain control of Canada's destiny. The movement did not originate in Canada, because Canadians were not as much interested in Canada's destiny as other people were. The Round Table was made in another country, and was carried over here, perhaps to be squared. But, when our Canadian soldiers have given their lives to save our countries' destiny from the hands of the Kaiser, we will surely see to it that those professing to be our friends do not steal it from us.

The dream of the Round Table group is Empire; the same dream which led the Czar, Napoleon and Kaiser William into a nightmare. The aim of the Allies in this war is to destroy the dominance of Empire, and to establish the rights of small nations. Canada is fighting for this principle too, and will surely ask for herself the rights of small nations so dearly bought. But, if we are sincere in this, why should the Round Table clique work for Imperialism? Empire and the rights of small nations are incompatible. An international court, composed of independent nations, to maintain the peace of the world is foolish talk, if we are to continue to make empires.

The people of Great Britain do not want an Empire, and have again and again declared against it. The working people of Australia have also passed strong resolutions condemning Imperialism. Why, then, do a few people attempt to insidiously burden us with this undesirable thing?

It would seem that the financial interests of Great Britain are afraid of the war debt. If the obligations are to be met, there will be no monied class, for it will take all their money to do it. The people will not tolerate taxation after the war, while individuals make millions, hence the endeavor for the establishment of an Empire. If successful then all the colonies, dependencies, or overseas dominions could be taxed, and the natural resources of Canada and other colonies would become the resources of the Empire. This would relieve the pressure on the people in the old land, and would possibly save the capitalists of Great Britain. But we are fighting for Canada, for the Canadians, and neither Kaiser nor capitalist must be allowed to steal our heritage.

THE NEXT-OF-KIN ASSOCIATION

Of the numerous organizations

that have come into existence in this province since the outbreak of the war, the Great War Next-of-Kin Association stands head and shoulders above them all. Organized in Calgary by a few faithful women, this Association has developed rapidly in numbers and influence, and, during the past few months, has established branches in the larger centres throughout the province, and is now a power to be reckoned with.

Their slogan is "justice, not charity" for soldiers and their dependents, and with an aggressive policy and tactics have already made a strong impression on the public mind. Their activities have been strenuously opposed by certain elements of ultra-patriotic reactionaries who do not approve of soldiers' wives, mothers or sisters agitating for better economic and industrial conditions. In fact, a most insidious propaganda is being waged against them in an attempt to capture the organization by packing it with women who are opposed to its avowed aims and objects. It is recognized in certain quarters that this body of women mean business, hence the attempt to divert their activities from a study of the real issues into a harmless milk-and-water form of benevolent-charitable-philanthropic society.

The Next-of-Kin Association seeks to educate women in the higher duties of citizenship so that they will be fitted to safe-guard the interests of their soldier relatives and obtain justice for their dependents by placing the responsibility for their care on the Canadian Government. Many of those women are seriously studying the problem of the returned soldier and recognize that only through educational propaganda will they be able to combat the ever-growing tendency to leave the settlement of this question to private charity.

If the women of Great Britain had united solidly to demand justice for their disabled soldiers, no Harry Lauders would be needed to tour the country begging money to provide a fund to take care of them.

Great credit is due the women of the Next-of-Kin for what they have already accomplished in directing attention to the meager pay and pensions of the soldiers and the inadequate and unjust terms of settlement for widows and dependents. They were largely instrumental in forcing changes in the administration of the Patriotic Fund in regard to soldier's dependents who, in order to augment

the ridiculously small allowance, committed the unpardonable sin of taking situations.

The members of the Great War Next-of-Kin Association are doing a patriotic work, and deserve the support of all loyal Canadians. Scorning the stigma of charity, they claim justice for themselves and their relatives who have sacrificed so much for Canada. This movement, if not wrecked by the machinations of party politicians, is destined to become a great force for good in the economic readjustments made necessary by the war.

* * *

HARRY AND MRS. LAUDER

We have been visited recently by the famous Scottish comedian and his wife, and both bestowed upon us the benefit of their advice. Mrs. Lauder, bedecked with jewels from truck to keel, riding in a private car, while her husband collects three dollars per head from those who want to hear him sing, comes forward with a criticism of Canadian mothers. If these had not been comedians, we would have been offended, as it is, we have just seen that Mrs. Lauder's advice was intended for a joke. We are Scotch, and it took some time for this type of humour to penetrate.

Mr. Lauder is just as much of an entertainer as ever. We like to see him, acting a soldier, and its great to see him impersonating a sailor, but when he assumes seriously the role of a recruiting sergeant, an economist, a war cabinet official, and a statesman, he falls flat to put it mildly. We would rather pay three dollars to hear him sing "The Auld Hoose," than hear him lecture for an hour gratis.

Mr. Lauder's advice in war-time may be well for Scotland, but in Canada it is ridiculous. He wants us to find out who our next door neighbors are: if they should have a German name, or happen to have German blood, we are to treat them accordingly. But we are not going to treat Canadian citizens as Germans notwithstanding the comedian's suggestion. Every true Canadian can see at a glance the folly of such action. Canada will get along, and do her share in the struggle without stooping to do what was advised by Mr. Lauder.

A RELIC OF BARBARISM In the busy whirl of life we seldom pause to meditate on the human tragedy of a hanging. Only when the act is accompanied by unusual circumstances is it considered a matter of more than passing interest.

The recent hanging at Portage la Prairie, when the victim, through the bungling of the hangman, lingered for 44 minutes after the drop, vividly illustrates the fact that the revolting cruelty of the inquisition is almost equalled by the refinements of torture invoked in Canada to-day to uphold the majesty of the law.

Can anyone with a spark of human sympathy read of this incident without a feeling of horror at the callousness of a society which permits and sanctions punishment of this nature? If the milk of human kindness is not an entirely imaginary attribute, surely a universal protest will be made by the Canadian people against a continuation of this barbarous method of correcting criminal tendencies.

Criminologists are more and more coming to look on a murderer as a person of diseased mind. There is no reason to suppose that this disease can not be cured if treated in a scientific manner. A person with a contagious disease is a danger to society, but no one would suggest that the victim suffer the death penalty. On the contrary, with the help of medical science, the suffering of the unfortunate patient is alleviated, and an attempt made to cure the disease. Apart from the humanitarian aspect of the matter, is it unreasonable or illogical to apply the same method in regard to mental diseases?

The chief argument used to defend the death sentence is that strong measures are necessary to deter criminals and instil the lesson that murders cannot be committed with impunity. In other words, we must use the same weapon as the murderer to prove to him the sacredness of human life! The fact is, we have not yet brought our reason to bear on this question of capital punishment. Our judgment is swayed by prejudice and passion, and we are unable to distinguish between revenge and justice.

Here is a problem that should be tackled by our Social and Moral Reform League. Its solution challenges the efforts of all sincere reformers.

The Non-Partisan Movement

THE NON-PARTISAN WOMAN.

By WILL. HOLMES.

The obtaining of the franchise by women has caused each voting woman to fly to some centre of gravity in the political arena. We have noticed a class of women that suddenly grew enthusiastic over the political leanings of her husband. She thinks it is her duty to live in harmony with her husband in all things. Another flew to the opposite extreme, on principle, delighted that there had arisen another chance of following a different course to that of her husband. But, still another class, and we are glad to believe, the largest class, of woman did not consider her husband's leanings, but immediately sought the good of the state. Her great idea was the new responsibility that fell suddenly upon her shoulders, and how was she to discharge that responsibility. She does not oppose her husband's leanings because they are his leanings, but she is a new element in politics, and a new element naturally gravitates to a new center that will afford it a new means of expression.

It is significant that at the first provincial election under woman's franchise, the first woman legislator in the British Empire was elected. Not because the men and the women voted against each other, but because a new element, shaped to meet the new demands in public life appeared, and the new legislature reflects the new element that bears a feminine brand.

Woman enters politics without the party habit, but not without habits of any kind. For instance, she has developed the habit of getting what she wants. "Hubby, I want a new hat," was a request that was met with ridicule, but she got the hat, and though it was stipulated that she need not ask for another thing for three months; she wanted a new coat, and got it. Man has asked for reforms for years, and governments have wriggled and compromised, and worked the shell game,—you think you have it, but you haven't; it's over here. Well, here is the real thing. You cheer—you bet—you look—you lose—stung again. But imagine hubby ordering a beautiful hat sent up—or, rather, an empty box. That's a game a woman hasn't the nerves to stand.

Woman has entered politics with a great big want. Public life has been a mystery to her all along, but she will not be content to enter a mystery. Things must be clear. She wants reforms; she wants the political house cleaned; graft must go, healers must go, crookedness of all kinds must disappear. She wants it, and she'll get it, or she will make these parts uninhabitable.

Woman has entered the political sphere with wants, and she usually asks in a way that gets. So the Non-Partisan Political League enters the field with a function to perform as the center of gravity for the woman voter. The League may not be perfect, as in every political organization all elements are represented in its ranks, good and indifferent. Even the old political parties are largely composed of men with ordinary human limitations. No one ever thought evil of the dignified, respectable candidate who actually stooped to such humility as to kiss the baby at election time. He courted the favor of the lady when she did not even have a

vote, and made Daddy proud that he had chosen such a wife, and think that their baby was the only baby ever born. But the woman will vote Non-Partisan because the League is so constituted that through it we get what we ask for, and that is what appeals to the instincts of woman.

The Non-Partisan League is the natural center of gravity for woman in politics, because its expression in the legislature is the expression of the voter, while, with the other parties, it is the expression of the corporations that have financed the election in order to determine legislation and for whose benefit the party exists. It is the quality of womanhood that she must know that her expression is emphatic. In her speech, in her dress, in her whole make-up, there is emphasis. She is accustomed to having the emphasis of her presence responded to. Profanity is dropped; hats are removed; decency and politeness are the rule in the presence of woman. Woman is present now in public life, we graciously conduct ourselves accordingly. She takes the seat of honor; she avails herself of all the privileges going; she must make her presence felt, therefore the logical center of gravity for woman is the Non-Partisan Political League.

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THE ANNUAL CONVENTION

The Non-Partisan League had its inception in Alberta during December, 1916. Five farmers came together in Calgary and decided to start propaganda and organization work in an effort to launch the Movement in the Province. Each contributed the membership fee, which formed the nucleus of the League funds. M. E. Sly, of Strathmore, was elected President, Wm. Irvine, of Calgary, was made Secretary, and arranged to lecture for the League whenever needed. Organization work went slowly, the Committee having to feel its way, and when two hundred members had been secured, it was decided to call a convention to adopt the constitution and elect an Executive to be responsible for the carrying on of the work of the League. This first convention was held Feb. 14th, 1917, at which J. W. Wilford, of Stavelly; E. E. Sparks, of Jenner; Lee Wilson, of Barons; H. W. Johnson, of Alderson; J. C. Buckley, of Gleichen, and M. E. Sly, of Strathmore, were elected as an Executive, with power to add to the number if necessary. H. A. McGlenning, Pincher Creek, and S. T. Marshall, Claresholm, have since been added.

The Constitution then approved called for an annual convention, which is to be held at the Paget Hall, Calgary, on Wednesday, March 20th, commencing at 11 a.m. It is the privilege of every member to attend the convention, direct its operations, elect officers, and criticize or amend the methods of organization. Every member is therefore urgently requested to be present at the Convention. Should it be impossible to attend personally, the members in each township are requested to get together to arrange for two, three or more to be at the convention. As the membership of the League grows, the inevitable course to be followed in the future will be for members in certain defined districts to meet and select dele-

gates, but at this convention it is important that some members should come from every township. This will help in some measure to make sure that members will be in attendance from every district, where the League has started organizing. It does not preclude any member from coming if able to do so.

The wives of the members are invited to attend, also anyone, not yet a member, who is in sympathy with the Movement. By this means, any resident known to be favorable to the cause, and who did not happen to be at home when the League organizer called, can be enrolled at the Convention and at once take part in helping to push the movement to success.

The Executive will meet the day previous to the Convention to complete arrangements. Their report will be presented to the members, and a financial statement of receipts and expenditures will also be presented. Lee Wilson, of Barons, Chairman of the Executive, will preside at the Convention. H. W. Johnson, of Alderson, who has been head organizer in the field, will give an interesting review of the work accomplished, outline plans for the future, and discuss the prospects of the movement.

Mrs. McKinney, M.L.A., and Mr. James Weir, M.L.A., will be present to give a short resume of proceedings in the Legislature, and will be glad to hear suggestions from the members regarding new legislation, etc. Wm. Irvine of Calgary, and Will Irwin of Lomond, and other speakers have also promised to be present.

Members are specially requested, when purchasing railway tickets, to get Standard Certificates, which will allow return at a reduced rate, according to the number present. Many prominent farmers who are members of the League have already signified their intention of attending, and all signs point to a most successful Convention.

The Movement is now winning the confidence of the people, and will in future be a power to be reckoned with in Alberta. Many applications have been received from different parts of the Province asking for information and for organizing work to be started in their districts. The League is the most democratic political organization in the Dominion of Canada, and already a proposal is being made whereby the organization can be broadened and wherein each district can be represented in its management. The convention will be asked to approve of some such system as this, and also to sanction amendments to the constitution.

Though hampered with bad weather in the past two months, organizing work is being steadily carried along, and the prospect for the future is most encouraging. The spirit of independence that is manifesting itself in politics to-day, has in large measure been brought about by the persistent work of the League, and has more than justified its existence and the efforts of those who have labored so hard to carry it to success. The Movement is now well established but its future depends upon the enthusiasm and co-operative efforts of its members. Come to the Convention inspired with a passion for our cause, with a determination to work for the common good, and we can make this an epoch making event in the Province.

—J. H. F.

Our Members in the Legislature

MY FIRST IMPRESSIONS.

By Mrs. L. C. McKinney, M. L. A.

I am afraid that the impressions of one so wholly unfamiliar with things legislative, as I have been, may be very uninteresting to the average reader. And, then, one would scarcely be justified in giving impressions on the individuals who compose the Legislature, even though first impressions might prove to be correct, so our realm of observation must be confined to things in general.

First of all, except for the little ripple of excitement incident upon the signing of a Parliamentary Roll by women for the first time in the history of the British Empire, the women members of the House have been received as a matter of course, and have been made to feel quite at home, so the situation has been robbed of all embarrassment.

In coming to a Legislative Assembly for the first time, one naturally assumes the role of a student rather than a critic, and tries to analyze everything from the viewpoint of its significance rather than from the surface value of the thing itself. Applying this to the opening ceremonies, one wonders just how much of the formality might be dispensed with, and yet preserve the dignity of the law-making body, but those most familiar with the rules of procedure, tell us that every part of the ceremony has its significance, and that rightly interpreted, it indicates not only the dignity of the Crown, but also the rights of the common people.

The Speech from the Throne and the debate on the same have been similarly analyzed. The "Speech" which is supposed to be an outline of the policy or the proposed legislation of the Government for the Session, is quite as eloquent in what it omits, as in what it says, and the "debate" we find on closer inspection to be not wholly a waste of time, for it gives the Opposition an opportunity to turn on the light and discuss at any length they may desire, both the proposed legislation, and any that in their opinion, should be included in the program. While at any one session, this debate may seem a waste of time, yet a principle is involved in it, and that is the principle of freedom of speech, and as long as this is maintained, it safeguards the interests of the people, and makes it impossible for any Government to rush in a legislative program without an opportunity for the opposition to bring this to the light of day.

And, incidentally, this is one place in which the party press has its opportunity, for while they all print the truth, yet none of them can be forced to print the whole truth, nor is there any reason why the mind of the reader should not be influenced by an occasional comment, giving the paper's own interpretation of events.

One of the interesting features of the present Legislature is the presence of the Independent section, nick-named "The Bombers" by some of the soldier members, for this is the first time, such a body has sat in the House.

In view of the Social trend of the present time, the personnel of this group may be considered significant,

as it includes the Non-Partisan members, the members elected by the soldiers Overseas, and the Labor member. It will be noted also, that both the women members of the House are included in this group.

While there is some evidence of partisanship, yet there is said to be less party bitterness than at most sessions, and all profess a real desire to play the game fair, and to help in every possible way in the great work of winning the war, and preparing to assimilate the soldier when he returns to us.

In listening to the debates, one hears from both sides of the House, strong protestations that Alberta should have her natural resources, and emphatic declarations that members have ceased to be partisan. From the Government side, we hear a member pronounce himself in favor of Government control of our coal mines; and, from the opposition, a member frankly states that there is no great principle between the two parties in the Province, and the only difference is that one side was elected by one organization with its party fund, and the other by another organization with its party fund; and we are more firmly convinced than ever, that the Non-Partisan League is merely voicing the sentiment of a majority of the people, when it enunciates its platform and states that in Provincial matters the interests of the people would be better served by a business administration, than by the present system of party politics.

Several bills have been introduced but none have come down for their second reading, and so have not been debated as yet. Later on we may be able to give some impression regarding this part of our work.

LOUISE C. MCKINNEY.

* * *

THE INDEPENDENT SPIRIT IN THE LEGISLATURE.

By Jas. Weir, M.L.A.

The position already attained by the Non-Partisan members of the Legislature has fully demonstrated the fact that it is unwise, and never safe either, to criticise anything about which one knows nothing. To those who recognize this as an age of progress and development and who realize that the thoughts and theories of to-day may become the rubbish of tomorrow, and that no one can build a Chinese wall around the human intellect, the presence in the Assembly of three members who have so early in the session found their places and consolidated their positions, holds no terrors. If this attitude of independence is good, the people will in time adopt it; if found otherwise, they will reject it, and in this, as in all other things affecting the welfare of the race, it is safest to trust the good sense of the people.

The Farmers' Non-Partisan League, and the Labor Representation League, so far in their respective careers, can ask no further justification of their efforts than that shown by the erstwhile old line party adherents, who meekly confessed to the

House their Partisan sins of omission and commission and promised better behavior in the future.

One speaker declined to ascribe the dawn of the better day to the presence in the House of the members in what he facetiously called "No Man's Land," a credit which was not sought, and is not altogether deserved. Sufficient for the Independents is the satisfaction of knowing that the light is breaking in the East, and that the Day Star is at hand. In one or two quarters, a disposition was shown to make light of the situation and to meet it with a sneer. Well, the day when a movement worth while could be killed by a sneer has passed, if, indeed, it ever existed. "The blood of the martyrs is the seed of the church" was said of old time, and the thought beneath the epigram rings as truly in regard to things secular as well as sacred, and the taint "Bolsheviki" doesn't hurt us who know that Bolshevism is the lineal descendant and logical successor of Czarism, that Trotzky was at least as honest and as true as Nicky, and that even Russian Socialism has nought to blush for in the presence of the Divine Right of Kings.

It is only fair to say that in the debate which has lasted now several days, two of the best speeches, and two of the shortest, were delivered by Alexander Ross and Mrs. McKinney. The latter in twelve minutes on Wednesday, cited three topics associated with the paramount question of production, the duty on farm implements, government operation of coal mines, and the complete abolition of the wasteful liquor traffic, in such a clear-cut and convincing manner as to command the applause of both sides of the House. To the man on the street, the speech of Alex. Ross embodied more argument than any delivered during the debate.

It must not be forgotten either that the opportunities for the Non-Partisan members to get action on economic questions and business methods in government are yet in the future. The Direct Legislation Act, the Budget, the U.F.A. Incorporation, the Health Act, Education and several subjects of perhaps minor importance, which are to come before the House, will be dealt with, and these members will surely add their quota to the sum total of results attained.

They will not be deterred nor turned aside by editorial hirelings of special privilege and Big Business, even though they may be referred to as the "elements of unrest," or their views be dubbed "destructive." The pretensions of these scribes to patriotism and public spirit act as an incubus upon every effort toward honest government, and throws the weight of an "Old Man of the Sea" across the shoulders of all who love justice and fairness and hate oppression.

There is Independent leadership springing from the ranks of the farmers and the working class. These two bodies represent in Canada to-day the truly Liberal and progressive elements. If these two bodies could make a simultaneous forward movement, enlist the support of the returned soldiers with their new viewpoint of public life and institutions, and command the support of the enfranchised womanhood of the Dominion, a new hope would arise, for to these the country is looking for leadership, that will mean much for the democracy of the future.

GRATUITOUS ADVICE



A STUDY IN PATRIOTISM

THE LEAGUE IN PARLIAMENT.

The influence of the League in the Provincial Parliament is marked by the spirit of independence which bubbles out from both sides of the House. It would seem as if there was a rivalry among the members in giving expression to independent thought. Government members have not hesitated to severely criticize the Premier. While members of the Opposition have condoned his action, and the strong constructive programme as outlined in the speeches of the members from the center is remarkable, and all together augurs well for the future of Alberta.

But what is the reason for this phenomenal change of spirit in our hitherto ultra-partisan assembly? What power has brought about the miracle? The Non-Partisan and Labor members represented the hand writing on the wall to partyism in this Province. In less than a year of organizing, three members were elected neither of whom have any dealings with party hacks or heelers. The favor with which the League met wherever its organizers were sent told plainly of the general disgust with party politics. The argument was conclusive when men paid fifteen dollars for the privilege of identifying themselves with the anti-partyism movement. The Alberta politicians with their ears to the ground, are now anxious to appear Non-Partisan, so as to make us think that there is no need for the League, but well we know that if the League ceases its efforts, the old party machine would again be set in motion.

Now is the time to work as we never worked before. There can be no such thing as a business administration, while the defeat of a government measure means the dissolution of the House. This foolish practice in itself is sufficient to keep the party spirit alive indefinitely, and it will not be abolished until we have an assembly predominantly Non-Partisan. This can be achieved at the next provincial election. With the continuance of present progress, the Non-Partisan League will sweep the Province four years from now.

Alberta is leading the Dominion in many things. We can score a great deal more to our credit by securing a Non-Partisan Government, by having direct legislation, and by having all public utilities under control of the Government. This is the work of the League. Those who have helped by their money and influence during the last year to set in motion a movement of such tremendous possibilities have much reason to be glad, but their enthusiasm must not wane until the goal has been reached. Our slogan is a Non-Partisan Alberta for 1921. Do your bit.

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STANDARD OIL COMPANY DIVIDENDS.

Cash dividend payments by the Standard Oil Companies for the last three months of this year amount to \$27,463,252, the largest quarterly distribution made out of current earnings since the dissolution of the Standard of New Jersey

in 1911. While the total for this quarter has been exceeded in two other quarters, one, the second three months of 1916, included a payment out of assets by the National Transit Co., and the other, the first three months of 1913, included an extra dividend of \$40.00 a share by the Standard of New Jersey.

Total cash payments for all of this year reach nearly \$100,000,000, the largest total for any year except 1913. In addition to cash disbursements, the Standard Oil Companies this year paid \$33,500,000 par value in stock dividends.

Some indication of the earning power of the Standard Oil stocks is to be seen in the statement that, since the dissolution of the parent Standard of New Jersey, in 1911, more than \$484,263,000 has been paid out in cash dividends. In the same period \$233,700,000 has been paid in stock dividends and rights to subscribe to new stocks have carried a value of \$41,400,000.

Cash dividends alone have been almost five times the \$100,000,000 capital of the reorganized Standard of New Jersey.

Cash dividends paid by the various former Standard Oil subsidiary companies from 1912 up to date are as follows: 1912, \$51,786,634; 1913, \$107,795,361; 1914, \$63,692,884; 1915, \$62,401,204; 1916, \$98,627,875; 1917, \$99,959,825.

Standard Oil companies' capital, par value, \$486,928,693. Market value over \$2,000,000,000. This does not include the Imperial Oil, Ltd., of Canada, and its subsidiary companies, of which 80 per cent. is owned by the Standard of New Jersey.

What Our Members Say

PUBLIC UTILITIES FOR THE PEOPLE

By JOHN GLAMBECK.

At the recent U. F. A. convention, a resolution condemning the Canadian Northern R. R. management for the miserable train service on the Goose Lake line, between Alaskan and Drumheller, was brought in by the directors who had occasion to travel on the ill-fated line. As soon as this was brought up, every farmer delegate, who has been unfortunate enough to locate along this horrible excuse for a railway, wanted the floor to relate his awful experience, and the tales told show how necessary it is to take this important public utility away from the private owners who apparently care nothing for the settlers along the line, but simply try to hold down their right of way by laying steel across the prairie without doing anything more to the roadbed, and then run a train once in a while when they feel like it. It is true that at present this road is supposed to be run by the government, but what does a government mainly composed of corporation lawyers, care about how farmers are served anyway?

The people who have settled in Western Canada, at the invitation and urgent call of the Dominion Government, and who, in spite of all the obstacles thrown in their way, are transforming the wilderness into an agricultural community, have right along been treated in a most neglectful and shameful way in regard to railway facilities. Even along the C.P.R., the best paying road out of the bunch things are far from satisfactory. As a matter of fact, most farming so far has been done in the way-back districts, far from the railway, simply because land around towns and along the railway has been held at high price by speculators. Those who had little capital were compelled to go away back for homesteads or cheap land, if they wanted to farm.

Consequently an enormous amount of time has been lost hauling grain to the railway, and thousands of dollars extra expense for wagons, horses, and staying over at towns, has been borne by settlers. If this state of things would only last a few years, it would not be so bad, but, as a rule, the railway companies are not very anxious to build branches unless they feared a new company would invade their territory. What difference does it make to the railways; what do they care if the farmers have to haul their grain forty to fifty miles, as long as it comes to their particular road anyway.

Frequently, we hear a lot of stuff doped out about the brave, patient pioneer settlers of these vast prairies. How they have suffered and persevered in spite of great drawbacks, etc. All this sounds very fine, and it is mostly uttered by men who farm the farmers, and, no doubt, some of these hardships have been necessary in the past. But in the name of common sense, why should this state of affairs continue? If the farmers are the backbone of the country, the mainstay of the nation, as the politicians tell us why then are not conditions made bearable for the farmers?

But it is safe to say that as long as railways and other public utilities, the very things the farmers must have and use, are held as private property by private persons, solely for the sake of making big profits, we farmers will always be up against it. And, furthermore, govern-

ment ownership of these things, when the government is owned and controlled by the money power of the country, will not change conditions much. But just as soon as the farmers and workers of the country get sense enough to be represented in the government, we can then expect a change for the better, and not until then.

DOES FEEDING HOGS PAY?

Barons, Alta.

Mr. Editor:

A story has circulated through the agricultural weeklies recently about an Alberta farmer who is reported to have made a statement that he was through raising hogs, as he received \$200.00 less for his forty porkers than he could have got for the grain it took to feed them. Then the vials of wrath are emptied over the head of this unhappy farmer, and the question is asked what would happen if the soldiers took the same view, and quit after being hurt once.

It is wonderful what a capacity for unselfish patriotism these packers and their hired advisers to the farmers, have. Here is a farmer who may be would not know a soft, leather-seated chair that can be swung back to make a bed if he saw one, who could not tell a Rideau Hall dinner from a cabaret dance, and who probably never had a dress suit, still he has the temerity to state that he does not intend to feed his grain to the hogs at a rate that eventually will ruin him, hinting that he is no hog himself, by asserting that he knows when he gets enough of the packers' manipulations of the markets. It is too bad that such traitors to their profits can't be sent to jail for life. Here they have made grand plans to hold up the governments for all that a famine traffic will bear, and at the same time give the farmers a lesson in patriotism by insisting that they should raise the hogs, nice and uniform to handle, at less than the cost of the feed, let alone the labor, and have succeeded, after some tribulations, to get the hearty co-operation of the self-appointed advisers to the farmers, in their flawless, profiteering scheme, and then along comes a common Alberta hay-seed and refuses to be the goat. It is enough to make a chairman of a munition board weep, it probably does.

Incidentally, they want to know what a soldier would do under the same circumstances. Well, let's make a guess:—

Suppose that the Canadian soldiers had officers who had no other aims in the war than to pile up profits for themselves, who, through some subordinate servants, ordered the soldiers to perform the heaviest and dirtiest work amid all the suffering of war, who always kept themselves out of danger, who had nothing but sneers for the one that exhausted fell at the wayside, while they themselves disported at swell hotels, and in softly upholstered offices, gathering in profits from the sufferings and hardships of the soldiers. If the officers of the Canadian soldiers were such, can't you now make a guess, Mr. Farmer's Adviser, what the soldiers would do? Try real hard. Get out of that chair, and walk around to some millionaire, and let him help you. May be you would be able to see a tiny ray of light between the two of you. It would not be any too soon.

After the soldiers have taught the Kaiser his lesson, so well that he can read it backwards, about what they will do in such cases, they will then be ready to teach you your lesson regarding their intentions, and it would do neither you, nor

your friend, the packer, any harm to have a kindergarten idea about it before hand.
JOHN A. LUND.

"CAN CHANGES COME QUICKLY?"

Coaldale, Alta.

Editor, NON-PARTISAN:—

In a recent issue appeared an interview with a prominent farmer in the Lethbridge district wherein he was quoted as fearing the League might be making a mistake in "going after too much at once."

Such fears might be well-founded if it were proposed to revolutionize our economic system in a day. The programme of the League but outlines its ultimate aims, not what it is expected to accomplish directly it secures for the farmers the government of the Province, which might well happen at the "next time of asking."

As for the government taking over and operating the railroads in the interest of the nation as a whole instead of for private interests, the member quoted appears over-cautious. "Adjustment of the railway problem cannot be made in a hurry," he says. But, why not? The railway problem in Canada can and should be dealt with in a hurry just as it has been dealt with in a hurry in England, France, and other countries, and now, also in the United States. It is an even more vital problem in Canada and there should be no paralyzing delay.

Do not the speeches of our "Empire and Canadian Club" speakers resound with praises of how Old England took over the railroads over-night to operate them in the interest of the nation? And since then ammunition plants, gun factories, flour mills, uniform, clothing and other factories, also coal mines, have come under control of the Government. This also has been accomplished in New Zealand, and when something has already been accomplished, there is no longer room for scepticism in regard to that thing—it is an accomplished fact.

Millions of people thought it was the height of folly to believe that man could ever mingle in the air with birds and out-distance the pigeon—but it is being done. Many thought wireless telegraphy impossible, foolish,—but now messages can be flung from the shores of the Atlantic to the capitals of Europe without the assistance of wires. And after the tremendous changes of the past 20 years no one can say what is possible and what is impossible!

Were the people cognizant of their own interests and intelligently and thoroughly informed of what is going on "behind the scenes," it would be possible for the entire programme of the Non-Partisan League to be put into effect within a year, for if the people were as keen regarding their own interests as the monied interests are, the farmers in the country and the workers in the towns and cities would have elected their own representatives to Parliament in the last election, obtained control of the government and accomplished in short time in Canada what has been already done in other countries.

Great changes can be brought about quickly—the necessities of the war has already proven this. What takes time is to make the people remove the wool from their eyes and get them to think and act for themselves. And this is what the Non-Partisan Movement is doing slowly and steadily, but surely.

Yours truly,

—"A NEW ZEALANDER."

The "Cheap Money" Question

By W. R. BALL, DEER MOUND, ALTA.

What Western Canada has Lost Because the Government did not provide "Cheap Money" for the Settlers.

This is a subject I have given continuous thought to, for over fifteen years, and have agitated for it from the platform and through the press, and have talked for it in every farmers' convention since there was an organization with the exception of one or two, and had thought at the convention at Edmonton in 1917, when Mr. Mitchell came and presented his bill for farm loans, almost duplicate of the New Zealand system, for their consideration that the Provincial Government promised to put into operation last year. Last November I went to see Mr. Newton, the Deputy Minister, and inquired about the progress the Government was making in accommodating the farmers with cheap money. He replied they had not loaned a dollar, had none to loan, and had no prospect of having any in the near future.

I said that was strange because upon that plank was largely the means by which the Provincial Government was returned to power. It was preached from every school house and platform throughout the Province, but he laid the blame upon the Dominion Government, because they had drained the country dry in appealing to the people to buy Victory Bonds and offered high rates of interest and exemption from an income tax on the plea that it was necessary in order to make this investment attractive to the monied element.

Now, both the Provincial and Dominion Governments have given an excuse for depriving the people of Western Canada of the use of cheap money, but neither one of them has a reason; remember an excuse is not a reason. In the first place, the war was in progress over two years when the Province promised cheap money. In the second place, it was not necessary for the Dominion Government to offer the inducements they did to secure funds to finance the war. If the money was available, the Government could conscript it as well as they could the lives of the people.

It would not be necessary as yet to tax the people so as to compel them to be deprived of the necessities and comforts of life. I will point out where the Government can and ought to take the money to finance this war. The C.P.R. made a profit in one year of \$49,000,000.

The Dominion Express Company, owned by the C.P.R., began business in 1882 with a capital of \$100,000, has realized in profits \$6,000,000, a profit of 179 per cent. each year. The Hudson's Bay Company, in 1913, made a profit of 50 per cent. Since January, 1907, the entire capital of the Company has been returned to the shareholders three times, and don't forget the value of both these companies was all created by the people, and the original owners paid practically nothing for them. Tax the profits of these two companies down to 3 per cent. after squeezing out all the water and see the enormous income. Then, there are in the three Western Provinces about \$300,000,000 out on mortgages, averaging 9 per cent., including fees. Tax that down to three per cent. and a revenue would be secured of \$18,000,000.

Now, we have not mentioned the enormous profits that have been made in

furnishing supplies for the army, nor of the other big industries, such as the implement, boot and shoe manufacturers, etc. Tax them all down to three per cent., and then put on an income tax commencing at \$1,500.00 per annum, and, as the income increased, raise the rate of taxation until sufficient funds were raised. There is no need to tax the necessities of life.

Ninety per cent. of the people who give their lives for their country are obliged to live on the products of their toil.

Now, I must give two or three illustrations of what cheap money would do. Take the average loan of \$1,000.00 at 9 per cent. would be \$90.00, at 4 per cent., \$40.00. Remember, the argument is based on normal times, before the war. Four per cent. would save the farmers \$50.00 a year. Take a term of ten years, put that \$50.00 out at interest at 8 per cent., and compound it each year, and in 10 years the Company would make a profit of \$830.00. Remember the Province owes about \$50,000,000 of other debts, such as store bills, farm implements, banks, etc. So, for ten years, it would average about \$100,000,000, and \$830.00 in ten years of every thousand would be \$83,000,000, and would pay for all the railroads in the Province. So you see if we were paying 4 per cent. interest instead of 9 per cent., we would save \$5,000,000 each year, and would over three times, pay the expenditures of the Alberta Government for 1916 excluding education, and would pay for 16,666 men for six months in the year at \$50.00 per month.

Now, then, for short-term loans. We want the National banking system similar to the New Zealand plan, where the people can deposit their money and the borrowers would only have to pay 1 per cent. more than the depositor gets. When all railroad, insurance companies, and all companies that work under a government charter would be obliged to deposit at least 75 per cent. of their surplus cash. This would keep their money in the country where it was made. There was on deposit December the 31st, 1917, in the Canadian banks \$1,565,419,884. One-third bearing no interest.

The other two-thirds the banks paid 3 per cent., while we have to pay them 8 per cent., and remember 1 per cent. pays to operate the loans.

My next article will give reasons why we do not have cheap money, and my third will point out how we can secure it.

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Convention.

LIFE AND WORK

AS OTHERS SEE US.

The Canadian Elections.

(From the New Statesman, London, Eng.)
This article, which is an excellent summing up of Canadian politics, after giving a resume of the last election and its results proceeds as follows:

The December "Round Table" estimates the number of soldiers' female relatives enfranchised at 500,000, the vast majority of whom voted Unionist. In the end the elections degenerated into an unfortunate racial quarrel with a strong flavor of Popery versus Protestantism. It is hard to decide which is the more obnoxious in Canada—the subterranean activities of the Roman Catholic priests or the windy incantations of the Protestant clergy. But the hard fact remains that a serious race cleavage has been generated in Canada, the end of which no man can foresee. At present Quebec is sullen and defiant; she bitterly resents the scurrilous racial attacks that have been hurled at her, but forgets that the discourteous treatment accorded to Unionist Ministers at their meetings in Quebec evoked them and did much to lose the election. Many rash statements have been and are being made on both sides, and it might be wise not to take too seriously the motion introduced in the Quebec Legislature on the morrow of the election suggesting the retirement of Quebec from Confederation. If Quebec withdraws she cuts Ontario and the West off from access to the Atlantic coast and leaves the Western Provinces little alternative but some sort of union with the States. The Maritime Provinces could more easily retain contact with Great Britain.

The whole crisis could have been averted if certain facts in the past had not existed. Had Mr. Chamberlain never launched the Tariff Reform Movement, English Conservatives would never have thought it worth while to insist in 1911 on the Canadian Conservatives opposing Reciprocity, which the latter at first were inclined to support, oblivious of its peril to the precious Preference proposals. If Mr. Bourassa had died in his youth he could not have been subsidised by the Canadian Imperialists, anxious to breach Laurier's Quebec stronghold, for a prolonged and effective campaign to educate the Quebec habitant against Canadian contributions to the British Navy and participation in Britain's wars. If Sir Sam Hughes, the ex-Minister of Militia, had not been a solid Orangeman, keenly anxious to discredit Quebec with the rest of Canada and make Sir Wilfrid's return to power impossible, he would have handled the recruiting problem in Quebec with a modicum of sanity, allowed French recruits a special organization and not appointed Methodist ministers to take charge of recruiting in a Roman Catholic Province. If Sir Robert Borden had been a wiser man he would have sought Laurier's co-operation before he introduced conscription and not after. But facts must be accepted as they are and not as we would wish them to be. The chief result is that the British Commonwealth has another very serious problem on its hands.

The Radical leaders of the Unionist party in the West secured the grain-growers' vote by definite and repeated promises of conscription of wealth, and it remains to be seen how far they can bend the corporation soul of Sir Thomas White, the Finance Minister. The Unionist Liberals are pledged to support

the Government during the war and postpone domestic issues. But the dominance of Liberal opinion in the House must materially affect all measures brought forward, and if the opposition Liberals would only be content to see progressive reforms adopted without possessing control of the reins of office and the incidents thereof, much might be accomplished in the next session. But if Sir Wilfrid and his lieutenants insist for tactical purposes on bringing forward issues which Liberal Unionists believe in but are in honor bound to postpone till peace comes, and force the latter to vote against their real views, they will naturally look for other grounds of justification and may come in time to take permanent refuge in the Tory camp. The first draft (20,000 strong) secured by the Military Service Act is called up for January 3rd, but the first classes of the draft are not likely to realize the estimated 100,000 men, as an election panic in Ontario and the pressing need of increased food supply drove the Government early in December to give wholesale exemption to farmers.

Sir Robert Borden is now entering on his second and what must almost inevitably be his last term of office. The balance of the women must be accorded the vote, and if Canada is to escape the charge of Krugerism the aliens cannot be for ever disfranchised. No party can dare to carry Sir Robert to another poll and face their avenging ballots added to Quebec's. His rival, Sir Wilfrid Laurier, has seen his life-work of reconciliation between the two races shattered, but he could have saved it had he listened to the almost tearful pleadings of the Western Radicals of his party to lead Quebec to some concessions on conscription. He has been the victim of false friends and foolish counsellors as well as of relentless enemies and partisan bigots. However, his reward will be found in eternal sainthood in his native province, and when passions have subsided and other qualities are mayhap forgotten, men will always recall as a great tradition the fine temper and courtly poise which he brought to Canadian politics.

The problem of Quebec remains and who can solve it? Not the Ultramontane hierarchy or the Manufacturers' Association, not Lord Northcliffe's organs nor the idealists of the "Round Table," who all seek to guide the future destinies of Canada.

The Union Government, a combination of Conservative Protectionists and Western Free Trade Radicals, can pass some much-needed war measures, but it cannot settle the problems of Canada. There are many Liberal French-Canadians in Quebec who do not bow the knee to the hierarchy, and there are many supporters of the Union Government who have little liking for the mixture of Plutocracy and Methodism which is the dominant ingredient of the Union Cabinet. What reformers should pray for is a new leader who will unite the Liberals in each section of the country and create a democratic national party to combat the varying forms of reaction. The reorganization of Labor into a national party came too late for this election, but if it secures the support of the returning veterans in any numbers it may yet become formidable in the cities. The people of Canada have just shown one province (Quebec) that they cannot hope to dominate Canada politically. The next task is to show another province (Ontario) that she cannot maintain permanent economic tyranny over the others.

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"OUT WEST"

THE PRESS AND THE PEOPLE.

By HERBERT E. TURTLE.

We are very well aware that the people those who do the hard work of the country, those who are not possessed of anything, or who own very little, have very little representation in the daily press. We need not go outside Calgary to see the truth of that statement. Recently, for instance, the storekeepers of Calgary, who advertise largely in the daily press, tried to arrange the work hours of their clerks, and the services the storekeepers should receive from the clerks, in a manner satisfactory to themselves, and on the whole more or less inimical to the interests of the clerks. Now, in this campaign, although one daily paper considers that it pays particular court to labor, and another professes to be specially interested in progressive opinions and ideas, the attitude of the Calgary daily papers was not cordial to the interests of the workers. And their opposition is still apparent. Although the storekeepers have been badly defeated in a referendum on the people.

It is just the same in national interests, the people are not represented in the daily press. Last fall we had the spectacle of an utterly discredited government, with over twenty vacant seats—some of which had been vacant for over two years—which it was afraid to begin to fill by an appeal to the people, arranging with some of its hitherto opponents to join with it in a campaign to preserve the interests which it was sent to Ottawa to serve, and which interests were also the interests of a large portion of the opposition. At the same time these interests were not the interests of you and I, who make up between us the common people of Canada. In the result, a great many newspapers which had been particularly vehement in their opposition to the moribund government which it was now desired to save, turned right round overnight, and proclaimed the same government—it was the same with one or two minor alterations—to be the saviours of the country.

Nothing could be more absurd, because if the government was utterly abominable overnight—as they said it was—nothing had happened to make it anything else but abominable in the morning. Now the reason why this government—which had been so utterly discredited—was hailed as the saviour of the country by a great many newspapers which had hitherto strongly opposed it, was because those interests which the newspapers represent suddenly discovered that the interests the proposed Union Government would represent were identical with the interests which are behind the newspaper press of the country. That is to say, those interests are the interests of privilege, which, as we very well know, are totally opposed to the interests of the people. It is true that the daily press represents a part of the people of Canada, but chiefly it represents those who are in possession of the industrial and natural resources of the country and their hangers-on, that is, those who support them because they expect to obtain something from them without working too hard for it.

The Kings and Emperors of modern democracy, who are those we call the capitalist and privileged class, do not wear crowns or purple robes, but they are more powerful than those ancient kings of whom we read in history. While the ancient kings held their power by military force, the modern kings hold their power by economic force. If the people were rebellious in the ancient monarchies they were shot down by the command of the king or his officers. If they are rebellious in modern times,

the capitalist kings proclaim a lock-out, or dismiss their employees, they refuse to let the people work for them, so that they are unable to procure sustenance in any other way than by humbly acknowledging their faults and requesting their masters to forgive them.

And, when the people rebel against the conditions which oppress them, the newspapers do not, as might have been expected support the people in their just demands, they quite readily support the privileged class, and distort the demands of the people to make them look ridiculous, when, as a rule, their demands are quite reasonable and sensible. You will remember there were several serious coal strikes in this district last summer, and you will also remember that it was quite impossible to obtain from the daily newspapers any just idea of what the miners were demanding, or whether they had any real grievance. We were told that they were mostly Austrians and Germans who were striking to help the Kaiser, that the I. W. W. was fomenting the strike and preaching anarchy, that they were earning enormous wages, and that they would only work three or four days a week and spent the rest of the time in riotous living. By sifting out such evidence as (accidentally) appeared in the papers, we found that the majority of the miners proper were British born, that some of the surface men were alien enemies, but were largely a floating population and had little to do with the strike, that the I. W. W. had nothing to do with it, and that the wages paid were in no way extraordinary for skilled labor of this class, and that the unskilled labor was, considering the cost of living and lack of comfortable living conditions, poorly paid.

Having considered the attitude of the newspapers of all sides in politics, we cannot but come to the conclusion that the common people of Canada in their own interest, should have a newspaper, or several newspapers which will represent them, and will give them true ideas of the happenings of the day. Such a newspaper would represent, not the ideas the capitalist and privileged classes wish the people to have, which are the only news which get into the newspapers today, but the ideas of the people themselves. And it is very important, in the people's interests, that the worker in Vancouver, or Medicine Hat, or Winnipeg should know what his fellow worker in Calgary is thinking and doing. At present from the daily newspapers he is quite unable to get anything but a distorted view of the opinions of others. On the other hand, if the capitalist of Toronto is interested to know what other moneyed people in Vancouver or elsewhere are thinking, he only has to obtain a newspaper from that place, and he is immediately placed in touch with the same ideas as his compeers in that district.

On this ground alone, without considering the conditions which occur after the war, the questions which will need to be settled, and the unrest which is certain to become among the peoples in the years following the proclamation of peace, I think it would be well if all the people had some meeting place on common ground where they could learn each others ideas, and thereby learn to act together for the good of all the people, instead of, as now, if they follow the lead of the daily papers, acting only for the benefit of a privileged class. And where will you find a better meeting place than in an intelligent newspaper, which will be responsible to, and will work on behalf of all the people in the manner I have suggested?

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Letters from Home

WHEN THE BOYS COME HOME!

Dear B——. In these enlightened days we diagnose a crummy feeling as being "fed up." The heart doesn't really move far away from the stomach; I've heard of men with their hearts in their mouths, and it turned out to be bile. I don't believe anyone ever had their heart in their boots either; they'd step on it and slip.

"Fed up" is a very good simile. Too much food, drink, rest, pleasure, too much work or fighting, too much sport, and at home too much high thinking about war and peace and politics, feeds a man up. Wherein lies the remedy? Less food and a dose of salts for the one, less fighting and more play for another, and less worrying about the Nation for the rest.

The British Army was nearly fed up in the summer of 1915. Overwhelmed at Mons, repulsed at Neuve Chapelle, gassed at Ypres, and eternally fighting on the defensive against an enemy always stronger and always pressing, yet we knew this was merely the first round, that some day it would all come right. The cure was Loos—the disastrous and mishandled attack on Lille—but it was an attack, and a change. We didn't hit properly, but better luck next time. Wellington once said that there was nothing so depressing as a battle lost, except a battle won. And there's nothing so glorious as a battle won, except a battle well lost.

The secret of life is work for an end; the lure of Ambition is in proportion to the efforts we have to make to attain it; with the end of work is the end of everything. Sounds like a copy-book by Peter Keary, but it's all true. Does the length of the hill in front inspire the cyclist with any other feeling except that he's fed up with it? But he doesn't stop at the bottom. And the harder the climb the better the view from the top.

The conception of capital by labor, and of the economic scheme of the capitalist, is already altering. Our friends the profiteers have kindly shown the British Army more than we have done in a generation of propaganda. England sent an army to France composed of miners, millers, laborers, clerks—of all sorts of fittings in the industrial machine. Their lives were bounded by the foreman, by the corner pub, the workmen's tram, and the three o'clock winner. All that their logical faculties could tackle was whether Everton's goalkeeper was equal to holding Aston Villa's right wing. Their place in the nation was for their M.P. to discuss, not for them.

These people are coming back men, not "hands," or operatives. They've lived, and faced the real issues of life, the elemental passions and needs. They've feared death and pain, not the sack; they've triumphed, won victories that would have left old Homer gasping as a special correspondent. They've been cold and wet and hungry; they've tasted grief and disappointment. And it's been for England—their country. I think they'll see to it that it is their country, not that of the Duke of So-and-So, or of the Trust-for-Producing-Shoddy-Clothing-and-Consumption. You wait and see. I've talked with them, officers and men, and I've listened to their ideas, badly formed, on this subject, but still there waiting to be moulded.

We're all busy at present. When we've finished this job we'll take on another, and even yet another. We've learnt to fight, not tend machines and kow-tow to

a timekeeper. It'll take a little while, and we won't shift the driver until we're in front in the race once more. We're real patriots these days—and that's only another name for Socialists. We're not the jingo sort.

Talk to the boys who are coming home. Put the case plain in front of them. And tell other people about it, too. Make them feel it in their bones the change is coming. Be cheerful, yourself. Learn to say, "Cheerio!"

—BOB MAGILL.

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Somewhere in Alberta,
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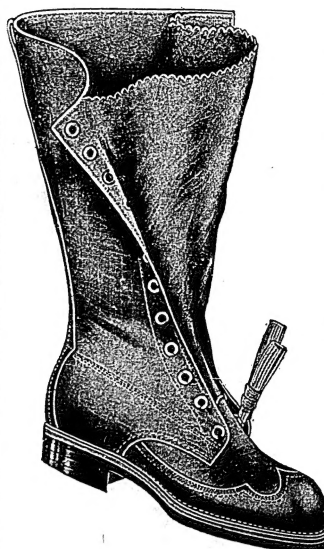
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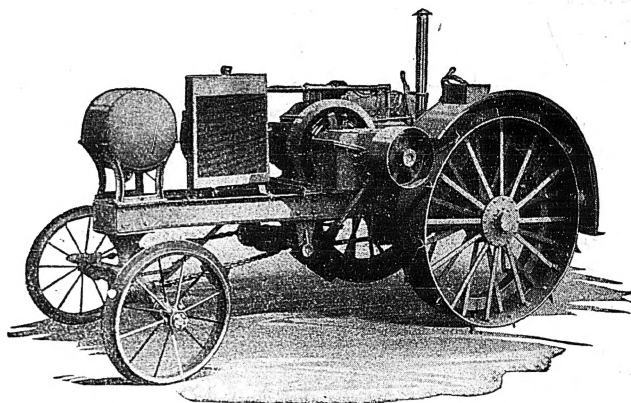
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